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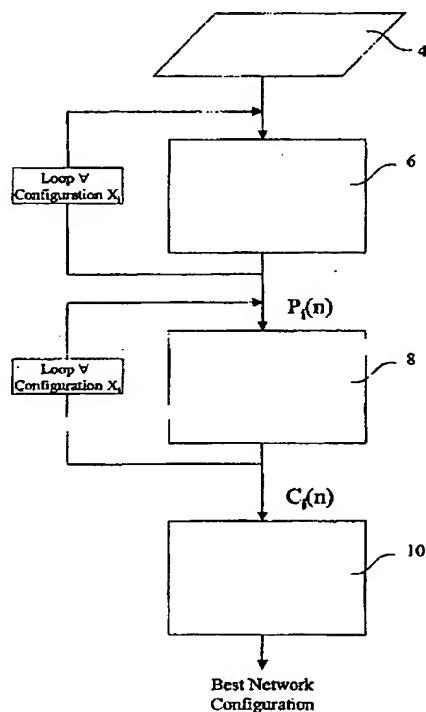
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(54) Title: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DESIGNING A DATA NETWORK**



(57) **Abstract:** A method of designing a transport network having a plurality of network elements and a plurality of connections between said network elements, comprises: (a) defining (4) a first network configuration and at least one alternative network configuration for the same transport network; (b) calculating (6), for each network configuration, a probability function ($P_i(n)$) representing, for each maximum number (n) of routable flows, the probability of routing such a number (n) of flows in the network configuration currently considered; (c) calculating (8), for each network configuration, a unit-cost-per-flow function ($C_i(n)$) calculated as the ratio between a sum of the costs relative to the network elements of the network configuration currently considered and the probability function ($P_i(n)$); (d) comparing (10) the unit-cost-per-flow functions ($C_i(n)$) of the network configurations considered, for choosing a network configuration having a lowest unit-cost-per-flow value.

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